

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
September 19, 2012

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Vera Ward, Kristin Schwab, Paul Shapiro, Julie Sherman, Rich Miller, Doug Goodstein (guest), Coleen Spurlock (guest), Don Hoyle (guest), Sally Milius (guest), Linda Painter (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Lon Hultgren (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 by chair Stoddard.

Introductions were made.

The June meeting minutes were accepted as amended on a motion by Shapiro/Miller. The July meeting minutes were accepted on the motion by Sherman/Stoddard.

Painter reported that Goody Clancy has been accepted as the consulting team for the HUD Community Challenge Grant. The selection process was very challenging as all applicants had excellent credentials. Over the course of the next two years, the sustainability committee will be assisting Goody Clancy by assessing town policies and regulations, having representation on a steering committee and participating in working groups.

The Sustainability Committee was asked by the members of the Mansfield Energy Education Team to provide guidance. Up until now, the Team has worked on energy conservation and renewable energy projects, but is now questioning its focus. Ideas included broadening the focus to encompass sustainability, working closely with the Sustainability Committee on the HUD grant and continuing to focus on alternative energy. Other comments - provide educational outreach through an established network, formalize the structure of the committee with representatives of different age groups and affiliations, create an action plan, use a train the trainer model for outreach, serve as a resource bank and collaborate in regional workshops and community building efforts. The Sustainability Committee will work on developing guidance for the Team at its next meeting.

Walton read Hart's report on the school update. Town staff has been directed to investigate the possibility of building two new elementary schools sequentially over a multi-year period and develop a timeline. More than one referendum may be required. Staff has also been directed to discuss with state legislators about making legislative changes to the Town's reimbursement rates for school renovations.

Miller reported that the Town and UConn have a mutual interest in becoming a bike friendly community/campus. Simsbury is one of two towns in CT with this official designation. UConn has a bicycle plan and is currently finishing up its road markings. Town staff will look into what is involved to become a bike friendly community and will

work with UConn toward that end. Stoddard introduced the committee to complete streets, which support pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle travel.

The committee congratulated Miller on the Sierra Club's ranking UConn fifth (third among public universities) among sustainable universities. Miller stated that the criterion for the competition was encompassing and reporting requirements detailed.

Walton reported that an ECSU student has been hired for 5 to 10 hours per week to help with the four school composting programs this school year. With his help it is hoped that school garden projects can be either be developed or expanded. Walton stated that with the Town's recycling rate dropping (multi-family residences are the primary culprit), a pilot project is underway at three apartments using uniquely painted recycling dumpsters to replace the 95 gallon recycling carts. So far, the sort has been clean and recycling has increased. Walton stated that Mansfield was not selected as one of the four pilot SolarizeCT communities. However, she has spoken to a solar company that would like to offer a similar program in Mansfield. Staff will review the company's proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton